

# Turnaround School Operator: Charter Schools USA

Founded: 1997

Schools in Operation: 23

Schools Serving Middle and/or High School Students in Operation: 19

States: FL, GA, (LA in fall 2011)

## Mission

Charter Schools USA (CSUSA) creates and operates high quality schools with an unwavering dedication to student achievement, unyielding commitment to ethical and sound business practices, and providing a choice for communities, parents, students and professionals that fosters educational excellence in America.

## History

CSUSA was founded in 1997 and has grown to be one of the nation's largest private public school operators. The organization serves more than 18,000 students in grades K-12 in 23 charter schools throughout Florida, Georgia and Louisiana. It is also in the process of expanding to new states. CSUSA is credited with starting the nation's first charter school in the workplace, the first municipal charter school, and the largest municipal charter middle-high school. Student achievement is their single most important priority, as is evident by CSUSA students consistently outperforming their peers in proficiency rates in reading and math for all population groups.

## Strengths

- In 2010-2011:
  - 100% of CSUSA operated schools earned a proficient school grade ("A-C") and 95% are High Performing (earned a "A" or "B")
  - 100% of CSUSA operated schools made AYP with the lowest 25% in Reading
  - 100% of CSUSA operated schools made AYP with the lowest 25% in Mathematics
  - CSUSA as a district earned a school grade rating of "A" (See Appendix A)
- Minority and economically disadvantaged students in CSUSA network schools outperform the state average in proficiency rates in each population group and subject area, including:

% Exceeding State Avg. Proficiency Rate		
Target Population	Reading Proficiency	Math Proficiency
Black	+34%	+24%
Hispanic	+22%	+11
ELL	+34%	+16%
Low-Income	+%14	+9%

- CSUSA schools with both high-poverty and high-minority rates outperform neighborhood schools and have achieved High Performing status.
- Downtown Miami Charter School, where 95% of students are African American or Hispanic and 87% qualify for free or reduced price meals, earned a "B" rating in 2010-2011 from the Florida Department of Education
- CSUSA has developed its own system for data-driven instruction, which allows for real-time communication of students' academic profiles with families.
- CSUSA is the only Education Management Organization to attain district SACS-CASI accreditation from AdvancED
- CSUSA has a demonstrated track record of engaging and involving family and community members in meaningful ways
- Coral Springs Charter School was named a top high school in the nation by the Washington Post (see Appendix C)